



**Public Hearing Testimony of
Sharon M. Palmer, Commissioner
Department of Labor
Appropriations Committee
March 7, 2014**

Good morning, Senator Bye, Representative Walker, Senator Kane, Representative Miner and members of the Appropriations Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to provide you with testimony regarding **Senate Bill No. 340, An Act Concerning a Two-Generational School Readiness Plan**. My name is Sharon Palmer and I am the Labor Commissioner.

I support the concepts raised in the proposed bill and the Department of Labor is working collaboratively with Department of Social Services on the issues related to the bill. The service components listed in this bill are already provided by the Department of Labor's Jobs First Employment Services (JFES) program, pursuant to C.G.S. section 17-668i. The JFES program offers job training, education, job search assistance, subsidized employment and the provision of support services, in addition to transportation and child care assistance. The Department of Labor collects data on the JFES customers' participation in these activities and issues a monthly report, which is available on the Department's website. The report is also distributed to the chairs of the Human Services Committee and the Appropriations Committee. Although the requirements of the proposed bill could possibly be considered duplicative of the training and educational opportunities currently available to parents through the JFES program, further communication and cooperation with state agencies would be a positive step forward and a welcomed consideration.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify here today. I am available to answer any questions you may have.